

REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES

CATCH OF THE WEEK

Week of April 11th, 2005

Taking the Worst of the Worst Off the Streets

Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force

On April 12, 2005, investigators from the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF), the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG), and the Richmond County, Georgia Sheriff's Office arrested Stephen Stanko in Augusta, Georgia. Stanko was wanted by the Georgetown and Horry County, South Carolina Sheriff's Departments for two murders and for rape and assault of a minor. Additionally, he was wanted by the United States Marshals Service for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. It is alleged that on or around Friday, April 8, 2005, in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, Stanko strangled a female acquaintance to death and then proceeded to rape and attempt to murder her minor daughter by cutting her throat. After raping the minor female, Stanko allegedly stole a vehicle from the victim's home and traveled to Conway, South Carolina. While there, he entered the home of an older male acquaintance, whom he shot and killed. Investigators believe he then stole the victim's pickup truck and fled the state. An exhaustive manhunt ensued that covered much of the southeast.

Over the weekend, law enforcement officials from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the Georgetown and Horry County Sheriff's Offices, and the United States Marshals Service developed information that Stanko might be in the Augusta, Georgia area. On the morning of April 12, 2005, that information was confirmed by the Richmond County, Georgia Sheriff's Office through a tip received from a member of the public. Throughout the day, additional leads were developed by the U.S. Marshals Technical Operation Group (TOG) and the Richmond County Sheriff's Office which led to a surveillance team, consisting of TOG and members of the SERFTF, locating the stolen truck at a strip mall parking lot in Augusta. Surveillance was established on the vehicle and a short time later, Stanko was observed exiting one of the stores. As he approached the truck, deputy U.S. marshals, agents from SERFTF, TOG, and members of the Richmond County Sheriff's Office arrested Stanko without incident. At the time of his arrest he was armed with a knife.



Stephen Stanko

**Wanted for Murder,
Rape, and Assault on
a Minor**

New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force

Almutah Saunders, a career criminal with eleven prior felony convictions, was wanted by the Newark, New Jersey Police Department since April 8, 2005 for making terroristic threats. On April 11, 2005, Saunders went to the house of the mother of his child in Irvington, New Jersey and forced her and her four-month-old baby outside. The female victim's father attempted to intervene and was shot once in the leg by Saunders. Saunders then stole a vehicle belonging to the grandmother and forced the woman and the baby to get into the vehicle. Saunders fled the area with the two hostages. Newark Police Department requested the assistance of the NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force (NY/NJ RFTF) in locating Saunders. Local police issued an "Amber Alert" and a citizen spotted Saunders' vehicle. Saunders led law enforcement on a high-speed car chase for sixty miles until he was cornered in Lopatcong, New Jersey near the Pennsylvania border. Task force members, with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG) and deputy U.S. marshals from the district of New Jersey responded to the scene and a stand-off ensued. Saunders released Turner and the baby four hours into the stand-off and then surrendered without incident three hours later. A .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun was seized at the time of arrest. Saunders was charged with two counts of kidnapping, attempted murder, burglary, aggravated assault, carjacking, eluding police, endangering the welfare of a minor, and three weapons offenses.



Almutah Saunders

Wanted for Attempted Murder, Kidnapping, Burglary, Aggravated Assault, Carjacking, Endangering the Welfare of a Minor, Eluding Police, Weapons Offenses, and Making Terroristic Threats

Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force

Alfred Renteria was arrested in Tonopah, Nevada on April 15, 2005 by Nye County Sheriffs Deputies based on information provided to them by the Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (PSWRFTF) and the U.S. Marshals Financial Surveillance Unit (FSU). Renteria was wanted by the La Habra, California Police Department for two counts of murder in connection with the shooting of his 72-year-old brother and 69-year-old sister-in-law. The bodies were discovered on April 12, 2005 by the driver of a van who had come to pick up the female victim and drive her to a dialysis treatment. Investigation indicated that the victims had been dead for some time and that, after the shooting, Renteria stayed inside the residence with the decomposing bodies for several days before fleeing. On April 15, 2005, FSU investigators developed information that Renteria had checked into a motel in Tonopah. Nye County Sheriffs Deputies were sent to the location and discovered the victims' 1989 Jeep Wagoneer located in the parking lot. Surveillance was established and Renteria was taken into custody as he walked from his hotel room.



Alfred Renteria

Wanted for Murder

Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force

On April 15, 2005, members of the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force (GLRFTF) arrested John P. Green in Chicago, Illinois. Green was wanted by the Waukesha County, Wisconsin Sheriff for the rape of a nineteen-year-old female in 2001 that occurred during a burglary in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. DNA evidence was obtained and placed into a national registry. In 2004, Green was sentenced to a period of incarceration in the Illinois Department of Corrections for burglary. Before Green's release on parole in January 2005, he had his DNA registered in a national database which resulted in a positive hit and Green was identified as the Wisconsin rapist. He also became a suspect in a rape that occurred in Nashville, Tennessee in 2000. The Nashville rape shared many of the same characteristics as the Wisconsin crime as it involved a young female victim who was home alone in an apartment when the offender forced entry, raped her, and burglarized the residence. The Menomonee Falls Police Department contacted the GLRFTF in Milwaukee and Task Force officers developed information on Green's possible location which was sent by collateral lead to Chicago. Based on this lead information, Task Force members in Chicago arrested Green without incident. In addition to his rape offense in Wisconsin, Green will be charged in Tennessee for rape and violation of his parole in Illinois.



John Green

**Wanted for Rape and
Burglary**

Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force

On April 14, 2005, the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force assisted the Stafford County Sheriff's Office and the Fairfax County Police Department in the arrest of John Joseph Rogers, who was wanted for abduction and homicide. The victim, a 35-year-old mother of two, was last seen speaking to Rogers outside of a restaurant in Prince William County, Virginia on the evening of April 6, 2005. Her car was found abandoned and torched in Stafford County on the following day. Her badly beaten body was found in a field on April 10, 2005 in Stafford County, Virginia by a man walking his dog. Rogers, an ex-boyfriend of the victim, was charged on April 14, 2005 with her abduction and murder. Rogers was located and arrested at a residence in Fairfax County, Virginia.



John Joseph Rogers

**Wanted for Abduction
and Homicide**